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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097478

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ANKARA 02882 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ATHENS, NICOSIA, VIENNA, AND USUN DATED APRIL 14, 1978.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T
I A L ANKARA 2882

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, TU, CY
SUBJ: TURK PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS

1. AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM, SAW FOREIGN MINISTRY SYG ELEKDAG AT HIS URGENT REQUEST AT NINE O'CLOCK THIS MORNING. ELEKDAG SAID THAT THE MAIN ASPECTS OF THE TURK-CYPRIOT PROPOSALS HAD BEEN EXPLAINED TO UNSYG WALDHEIM YESTERDAY AND TWO ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN PRESENTED. FURTHER EXPLANATIONS OF THE TERRITORIAL PROPOSALS WERE MADE ON A MAP, ALTHOUGH NO MAP WAS PRESENTED. THE TURK REPRESENTATIVES, CONFIDENTIAL

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ERTEGUN AND SOYSAL, SAID THAT WALDHEIM "SEEMED SATISFIED" WITH THE PROPOSALS. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, PROBLEMS OF PROCEDURE. WALDHEIM SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO GO TO NICOSIA AND CONSULT THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS. SOYSAL HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE (WALDHEIM) SHOULD INDICATE HIS "APPRECIATION" OF THE PROPOSALS BEFORE LEAVING VIENNA. HE WANTED A STATEMENT THAT THE PROPOSALS WERE "COMPREHENSIVE,

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COMPLETE AND SERIOUS." WITHOUT SUCH A STATEMENT, HE FELT THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS WOULD REJECT THE PROPOSALS OUT OF HAND. SOYSAL ALSO TOLD WALDHEIM THAT CONSULTATIONS ON CYRPUS SHOULD INCLUDE THE TURK-CYPRIOTS. WALDHEIM DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, IN NEW YORK, URQUHART TOLD AMBASSADOR TURKMEN THAT WALDHEIM WAS IN A DIFFICULT POSITION. HE FELT THAT IF HE SAID ANYTHING, HIS CREDIBILITY WOULD SUFFER.

2. PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT IN BELGRADE HAD THEN TALKED TO WALDHEIM BY TELEPHONE (ELEKDAG, WHO HAS NOT HEARD DIRECTLY FROM ECEVIT, HAD IMPRESSION WALDHEIM HAD INITIATED THE PHONE CALL). TURKS FELT THAT TO SOME DEGREE "CLOUDS WERE DISPELLED" BY THIS CONVERSATION. ECEVIT HAD EXPLAINED TO WALDHEIM THAT A STATEMENT WOULD NOT BE AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROPOSALS BY WALDHEIM OR EVEN AN ENDORSEMENT THAT THE PROPOSALS WERE "THE BASIS OF NEGOTIATION." ENOUGH HAD TO BE SAID, HOWEVER, TO PREVENT AN OUTRIGHT REJECTION. ECEVIT HAD ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT THE PROPOSALS AS PUT FORTH WERE A NEGOTIATING POSITION. HE HAD SAID THAT THE GREEK SIDE COULD PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS OF THE SAME SERIOUSNESS.

3. ELEKDAG CONTINUED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE SYG PLANS TO GO SOON TO NICOSIA. THEY ARE CONVINCED OF THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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MAKING A STATEMENT BEFORE HE LEAVES VIENNA. AT THE LEAST, HE MUST SAY THAT THE PROPOSALS WERE "SERIOUS, COMPLETE AND COMPREHENSIVE." THIS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN ENDORSEMENT. WALDHEIM WILL BE TALKING TO SOYSAL AGAIN TODAY AND ELEKDAG BELIEVED THAT HE WOULD BE DEPARTING FOR NEW YORK ON THE 17TH. HIS INFORMATION WAS THAT WALDHEIM HAD NOT YET MADE UP HIS MIND WHEN HE WOULD GO TO CYPRUS BUT HAD INDICATED HE WOULD INCLUDE NICOSIA ON A TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST. ELEKDAG WISHED THE USG TO DO TWO THINGS: 1) HELP PERSUADE WALDHEIM TO MAKE A STATEMENT, AND 2) DO WHATEVER IT COULD TO PERSUADE KYPRIANOU NOT TO BE ADAMANT. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT SOYSAL'S SECOND REQUEST OF WALDHEIM, IE, THAT TURK-CYPRIOTS BE PRESENT WHEN WALDHEIM CONSULTED GREEK-CYPRIOTS ON CYPRUS, WAS NOT ONE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE GOT.

4. I RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT INSTRUCT AMBASSADOR WOLF TO SEE WALDHEIM AND TRY TO GET HIM TO SAY SOMETHING BEFORE HE LEAVES VIENNA. AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY HIM THAT THE PROPOSALS WERE INDEED CONCRETE AND COMPREHENSIVE WILL MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR KYPRIANOU TO REJECT THEM OUT OF HAND. I ASSUME THAT KYPRIANOU'S PROBABLE

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TACTIC WILL BE TO DISPARAGE THEM ON PROCEDURAL LINES,
IE, NOT COMPLETE ENOUGH, FULL TEXT NOT FURNISHED,
ETC, AND THUS EVADE THE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS THE
GOT AND WE SEEK. GIVEN OUR OWN CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS,
WE HAVE AS MUCH STAKE AS THE TURKS IN WALDHEIM'S INDICATING
SOME KIND OF JUDGMENT THAT WOULD HELP PREEMPT A
KYPRIANOU "REJECTION" BEFORE HE GOES TO NICOSIA. IF
HE DOES NOT DO SO, THOSE WHO WISH TO PREVENT PROGRESS
ON SETTLEMENT NOT ON THE MERITS OF THE PROPOSALS BUT
BECAUSE THEY WISH TO PREVENT LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WILL
HAVE AN OPPORTUNIGY. I AM CONVINCED THAT THE GOT,-AND
CERTAINLY ECEVIT-ARE SERIOUS ABOUT ACHIEVING A CYPRUS
SETTLEMENT. IF WE MOVE SKILLFULLY, WE MAY NOT ONLY BE ABLE
TO GET THE EMBARGO LIFTED (A PREREQUISITE FOR MAKING A
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BEGINNING ON REPAIRING OUR RELATIONS WITH TURKEY), BUT
ALSO ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS OF A CYPRUS SOLUTION THAT
WOULD HELP DRAIN THE POISON OUT OF THE ATMOSPHERE OF
THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. ONCE THE PROCESS OF NEGOTAITION
BEGINS-AND IF THE EMBARGO DISAPPEARS-I BELIEVE WE
WILL SEE MUCH MORE MOVEMENT FROM TURKEY THAN EVEN THEY
NOW BELIEVE TO BE LIKELY.
SPIERS UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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